

MINUTES
OPC SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 1, 2014

First Selectman Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order in Room 206 at Town Hall at 8:38 a.m.

Present were First Selectman, Jayme Stevenson; Board of Education Chairman, Betsy Haggerty-Ross; Planning & Zoning Commission Vice-Chairman, Steve Olvany; RTM Moderator, Sarah Seelye; Board of Finance Chairman, Elizabeth Mao and Town Administrator, Karl Kilduff.

Board of Education

Chairman Haggerty-Ross reported that the Board continues to monitor the implementation of action plans suggested by the State and Sue Gamm to oversee Special Education policies and procedures.

The search for a new Superintendent of Schools remains a priority for the Board of Education. Spring concerts for chorus, band and orchestra will be held in the coming weeks and graduation is scheduled to take place on June 18, 2014.

Finally, the Board will make a request for a special appropriation to the Board of Finance on May 20, 2014 and to the RTM on June 9, 2014.

Board of Finance

Chairman Mao suggested the Town Attorney, Wayne Fox, consider an initiative to allow the Fund Balance to be invested differently in order to receive a better return.

Chairman Mao questioned the radio system request discussions of the RTM Rules Committee. It was her understanding, as well as others in attendance, that the committee sets the agenda rather than discusses the merits of the agenda items.

Planning & Zoning Commission

Vice-Chairman Olvany reported that the Planning & Zoning Department is very busy with applications and pre-applications. Among the pre-applications being reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Department are: an expansion at Kensett Darien, plans by Parkland to convert and re-purpose its building and Penny Glassmeyer's plans to re-purpose the property on Settlers Trail, previously the Nobel Brothers Hardware site.

The Board is reviewing the parking report completed by the Town Administrator and subsequent downtown parking restructuring suggested by Mrs. Stevenson. Mr. Olvany noted that the CT Siting Council regulates new cell towers and so the proposed cell tower at Ox Ridge Hunt Club will not require local review. Litigation over the 57 Hoyt Street development continues and a new case has been brought forward over the plans to install turf fields at the high school. The suit involves the BOE, the P&Z Commission and the

Darien Athletic Foundation. Lastly, Planimetrics gave an informal presentation on how to proceed with a Town Plan of Conservation and Development. Mr. Olvany is in favor of hiring professionals with various areas of expertise and using internal staff as a valuable resource to develop the overall plan. A draft of the plan must be submitted in early 2016, thereby allowing for the adoption process as outlined in State Statutes.

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Seelye discussed the RTM Rules Committee meeting mentioned by Mrs. Mao. Mrs. Seelye was of the impression that the radio system request had been discussed openly in previous public meetings, both by the BOS and BOF, so that people were familiar with the request. However, some people felt uninformed and the committee discussed the request. When questioned as to why the Rules committee was getting into the substance of agenda items, Mrs. Seelye suggested that perhaps the committee needs a better understanding of its boundaries.

The Budget will be voted on during the May meeting and the June agenda will have the radio system request and BOE special appropriation request on it. Also in June, the League of Women Voters will provide a presentation on Council of Governments (COGs)

First Selectman

First Selectman Stevenson reviewed the status of the towns that have become, or are in the process of becoming, a COG. She will address the RTM, most likely in September. In the meantime, she feels it is important for residents to understand that in order for the Town to have a seat at the regional table it must become a part of a COG.

Once the hazardous abatement work is done at 4 Short Lane, police and fire squads may use the building for limited training purposes before the building is demolished. Abatement costs are expected to come in under budget.

Mrs. Seelye motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Olvany. By unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary
Recording Secretary